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in handling social and economic problems. In spite of its bizarre theories, however, it must be said that the work is a very suggestive one and deserves the attention of economists and sociologists. It is fitting that the theories of Malthus should again at the beginning of the twentieth century receive restatement at the hands of one primarily trained in biology, the science which has profited most from Malthus' work; for the full significance of Malthus' theories may not, as Dr. Woodruff asserts, be yet appreciated by students of human society. Still, one cannot but regret that the restatement of Malthus' theories by Dr. Woodruff was not made with more allowance for the psychical factors in human society which he utterly ignores and which makes man more or less of an exception among animal species.

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Psychological Interpretations of Society. By MICHAEL M. DAVIS, JR. Vol. xxxiii, Columbia University Studies in History, Economics and Public Law. (New York: Longmans, Green & Company, 1909. Pp. 260. \$2.)

This is an important study for those who are interested in the recent progress of sociology along psychological lines. It is even in itself a considerable contribution to the development of the psychological aspects of sociology. The book however is badly proportioned. About one-half (chapters vi to x, inclusive) is devoted to Tarde's imitation theory of society. The excuse for this is that these chapters constituted originally the author's doctoral dissertation, and around these as a nucleus the book has been built up. In the present work, however, they might have well been condensed to two chapters with great gain to the time and energy of the reader.

The important parts of the work are then, section first, in which the author treats of the development of psychological theories of society, and of the conception of the social mind, and chapters xi to xvi inclusive, in which he discusses various psychological and sociological principles. In these portions of the work he outlines, though in a very fragmentary way, a sound psychological theory of society based upon the latest and best

modern psychology. He sees clearly the inadequacy of Tarde's imitation theory of society and also of Marx's economic interpretation of history, pointing out their defects from the standpoint of psychology. It is to be hoped that Dr. Davis will develop sometime systematically his psychological sociology. Even as it stands, the work is a decided contribution to theoretical sociology.

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The American Newspaper. By JAMES EDWARD ROGERS. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1909. Pp. xiii, 213. \$1 net.)

The American Newspaper, by James Edward Rogers, is an indictment of the American people. It is a severe but not a carefully drawn indictment nor is the charge made fully proven. It is not intended to indict the people, but to be "an analysis of contemporary journalism." The American press, Mr. Rogers concludes, is a reflex of the American nation; the newspaper is what the people make it. This newspaper, he decides, is "essentially sensational and commercial." The American people crave sensation and are essentially commercial.

Mr. Rogers traces first the historic evolution of the modern newspaper. This evolution, the author admits, is "hastily sketched." On one page he states that freedom of the press has always existed in America, while on the next page he declares that the press was in its earlier years wholly "subservient to the opinions of those in authority." There are other marks of haste. The brief and unrelated historical sketch prefaces a more comprehensive consideration of the press of the present day. This present-day press is considered from several view-points. Its environment is discussed, the nature and influence of the newspaper and the causes of the influence, psychological and economic. Mr. Rogers eliminates from consideration all the American press except the large metropolitan dailies. Ignoring the fact that the size, number, circulation, and influence of the country newspapers, have increased rapidly in the last decade, he declines to regard as worth while in a study of American journalism, any newspaper outside the greater cities. Indeed, though he has examined "some 15,000 news-